

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, and 20.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-24 are currently pending, with claims 1-6, 9, 12-14, 17-18, and 21-24 subject to examination.

In the final Office Action mailed June 23, 2005, claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 have been amended responsive to this rejection. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome this rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

In the outstanding final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Juen (US 6,542,194) in view of Yamagishi (US 6,710,808). It is noted that claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

The Applicants submit that none of the cited prior art, nor combination thereof, discloses or suggests at least an electronic camera that does not use a mechanical shutter, and that includes a MOS type solid-state image pickup device comprising (i) a semiconductor substrate, (ii) a number of photoelectric conversion elements formed in one surface of said semiconductor substrate in a matrix shape along a plurality of rows

and columns, (iii) a switching circuit provided for each photoelectric conversion element and electrically connected to an corresponding photoelectric conversion element, each switching circuit controlling generation of an output signal representative of charge accumulated in said corresponding photoelectric conversion element and drainage of said charge, (iv) a row selection signal line disposed for each photoelectric conversion element row and electrically connected to corresponding switching circuits, each row selection signal line being supplied with a row selection signal for controlling generation of said output signal, (v) a plurality of output signal lines each of which is corresponded to at least one pixel column and on each of which said output signal is generated, (vi) a reset signal line disposed for each photoelectric conversion element row and electrically connected to corresponding switching circuits, each reset signal line being supplied with a reset signal for controlling drainage of said charges, (vii) a readout row-shifter for sequentially supplying said row selection signal to each row selection signal line, (viii) a reset row-shifter for sequentially supplying said reset signal to each reset signal line, and (ix) an output device electrically connected to each output signal line for sequentially generating and outputting image signals representative of said output signals; an image signal processor for generating moving image data or still image data based on said image signals output from said MOS type solid-state image pickup device; a still image indication signal generator for generating a still image indication signal for indicating image pickup of a still image; a flashing device for emitting a flash in response to a reception of a predetermined signal, or a flashing device mount for mounting said flashing device; a moving image mode controller being connected to said MOS type solid-state image pickup device for continually controlling operation of said MOS type

solid-state image pickup device, said moving image mode controller makes said MOS type solid-state image pickup device repeat (a) an image signal read operation of sequentially supplying said row selection signal from the readout row-shifter to a plurality of predetermined row selection signal lines for sequentially generating said output signals on each output signal line and (b) an electronic shutter operation of sequentially supplying said reset signal from the reset row-shifter to said reset signal lines corresponding to at least said rows to be subjected to said image signal read operation for sequentially draining said charges accumulated in the photoelectric conversion elements; and a correcting still image mode controller being connected to said MOS type solid-state image pickup device for controlling operation of said MOS type solid-state image pickup device in place of said moving image mode controller when said still image indication signal is made, wherein a flashing device operation signal for operating said flashing device is made in the state that said readout row-shifter and said reset row-shifter are not operated, an exposure time of each photoelectric conversion element is set equal to or shorter than a time duration including an issuance time of said flashing device operation signal and necessary for performing two image signal read operations before and after one electronic shutter operation, and after a lapse of said exposure time, said correcting still image mode controller makes said MOS type solid-state image pickup device perform an image signal read operation of sequentially supplying said row selection signal from the readout row-shifter to each row selection signal line for sequentially generating said output signals on each output signal line, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. As claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 21-24, which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable over the cited prior art.

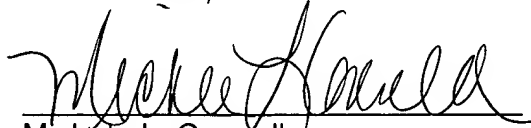
Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 107317-00028

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX, PLLC



Michele L. Connell
Registration No. 52,763

Customer No. 004372

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6104
Fax: (202) 857-6395
MLC:mmi